GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:725
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
DROUGHT CONDITIONS
JASKAUR MEENA;RAMPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has urged the nation through broadcast that people should liberally contribute for meeting the drought conditions in the country;

(b) if so, the amount received after this appeal;

(c) whether severe drought situation has affected many States;

(d) whether any assessment has been made in terms of loss of lives, cattle and crops etc. in these States;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(f) the requests received from each State for additional assistance from Natural Calamity Fund;
(g) whether the Government had convened an all party meeting to discuss the drought situation in the country; and
(h) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.725 TO BE ANSWERED ON TH 17th May, 2000 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Details of contribution to the Prime Minister`s National Relief Fund (PMNRF) are not maintained as the contributions to this Fund consists of voluntary contributions and does not form part of the Consolidated Fund of India.

(c): Yes, Sir. Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh are reportedly experiencing severe drought conditions.

(d)&(e): While no loss of human or cattle life has been reported by any of these States, the shortfall in foodgrains production is likely to be 29.45% in Gujarat, 22.88% in Rajasthan and 10.08% in Andhra Pradesh.

(f): During 1999-2000, the Governments of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh had sought assistance of Rs.722.16 crore, Rs.1144.40 crore and Rs.720.36 crore, respectively, from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). In addition to the release of entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1999-2000 assistance of Rs.54.58 crore to Gujarat, Rs.102.93 crore to Rajasthan and Rs.75.36 crore to Andhra Pradesh was released from the NFCR in the wake of drought. During 2000-01, three instalments of Central share of CRF to Gujarat, two instalments of Central share of CRF to Rajasthan as well as Andhra Pradesh have been released.

(g)&(h): Yes, Sir. The drought situation in various parts of the country was discussed in detail in an all party meeting, convened by Prime Minister, held on 25th April, 2000. It was suggested that adequate assistance should be given to the drought affected States. The need for long-term measures for mitigating the adverse effects of drought effectively was also discussed. At the suggestion of the Prime Minister, it was also agreed that the matter relating to drought be kept above politics.